



Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

western one-third of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

great plains toad

Bufo cognatus

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Bufonidae

Features

The great plains toad commonly is 3 1/2 inches long, with females larger than males. Large, dark olive spots on a light gray or light olive background characterize this species. The blotches include several warts. The cranial (head) ridges contact the paratoid glands (seen as lumps under the skin), converging on the snout. The belly is plain white.

Natural History

Primarily a toad of the loess hills prairies, the great plains toad ranges northward into Minnesota. It eats insects. It is late-breeding, calling from May through early July. The call of the great plains toad is a loud, metallic trill.

Habitats

Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; temporary water supplies; bottomland forests